Virginia Green Conference Centers
Profile:

YMCA Silver Beach Conference & Retreat Center
Jamesville

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices is all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. ***Virginia Green Conference Centers*** have been thoughtfully planned and designed to minimize their impacts on the environment. This attraction has met the established "core activities" for ***Green Conference Centers*** and has committed to communicate its activities to its guests. Below is a list of this attraction's "green" activities that guests can expect.

YMCA Silver Beach

Owned and operated by the YMCA of South Hampton Roads, YMCA Conference & Retreat Center at Silver Beach is located on 1,200 feet of pristine beachfront on the Eastern Shore's Chesapeake Bay. Nestled in 151 acres of woods and wetlands, we are the ultimate location for your escape!

Virginia Green Activities. When visiting the YMCA Silver Beach Conference Center, you can expect the following practices:

CORE ACTIVITIES for <u>Conference Centers</u>

☑ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Conference Centers must provide highly-visible recycling opportunities for guests at their events.

- Grease, Office Paper, Toner Cartridges, Cardboard, Fluorescent Lamps, Batteries, Electronics Equipment
- Track overall waste bills
- Provide condiments, cream and sugar in bulk
- Use water pitchers that minimize single-use bottles
- Effective food inventory to minimize waste
- Purchase locally grown produce and other foods
- Use electronic correspondence and forms, recycled content paper
- Purchase durable furniture and equipment
- Proper recycling and/or disposal of thinners and solvents
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Preventive maintenance on all appliances, HVAC system, plumbing, and vehicles
- Last in/first out inventory and effective labeling systems
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides and use integrated pest management

☑ **Styrofoam and Disposable Reduction.** Conference Centers are encouraged to minimize or eliminate the use of Styrofoam cups and plates in favor of products that are bio-based, paper, or recyclable.

- Use dishware and glassware to minimize disposables
- Disposable containers made of recycled content, bio-based materials

☑ **Water Efficiency.** Conference Centers must have a "plan" for conserving and using water efficiently.

- Track overall water usage and wastewater
- Preventive maintenance on drips and leaks
- Water-flow metering to discover leaks and areas of high use
- Encourage dry cleanup over water-based
- Effective landscape management plan
- Effective storm water management

☑ **Energy Conservation**. Conference Centers must have a "plan" that encourages energy conservation and efficiency.

- Tracking overall energy bills and set a numeric goal to reduce
- High Efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps
- High Efficiency Heating and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Use of natural lighting
- Use of directional lighting in parking lots and other outdoor areas

☑ **Green Events Package.** Conference Centers must offer a "green" or "environmentally-friendly" package for conferences, meetings and other events.

- Inclusion of "green meetings/conference" in marketing packages

---

For more information on **YMCA Silver Beach Conference and Retreat Center**, see www.silverbeachconference.org or contact Volha Zarubina at vzarubina@ymcashr.org.

For more information on ***Virginia Green*** program, see www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen. Click on "Conference Centers".

Virginia Green is a partnership supported by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Tourism Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.